

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAM-01 NIC-01 AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-04

OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 XMB-02 /090 W

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R 041455Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8926

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4639

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJ: CURRENT TEMPERATURE OF DETENTE

1. SUMMARY: A U.S. DELEGATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION, WHICH SPENT THE LAST WEEK OF MARCH IN THE SOVIET UNION, NOTED THAT THEIR SOVIET INTERLOCUTORS--MOST OF THEM FROM THE USA INSTITUTE--STRESSED THE CONTINUED SOVIET COMMITMENT TO DETENTE. USA INSTITUTE DIRECTOR ARBATOV SAID THAT THERE HAD NOT BEEN ANY SERIOUS SOVIET INTERNAL DEBATE ABOUT DETENTE, EVEN AFTER THE TRADE ACT AFFAIR; BUT HE WAS CRITICAL OF THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION FOR NOT TAKING DIRECT ACTION TO TURN CONGRESS AROUND ON TRADE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE U.S. GROUP, WHICH INCLUDED MARSHALL SHULMAN, JAMES LEONARD, CHARLES YOST, LINCOLN BLOOMFIELD, MICHAEL BLUMENTHAL, AND ROBERT KLEIMAN, FOUND A CONTINUED SOVIET VERBAL COMMITMENT TO DETENTE, BUT WITH A GREATER DEGREE OF APPREHENSION THAT THE WORLD SITUATION CAN HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON DETENTE. (IN A CONVERSATION WITH REP. BINGHAM, USA INSTITUTE DEPUTY DIRECTOR SHERSHNEV SPECIFICALLY CITED PORTUGAL AS ONE OF THE PROBLEMS AHEAD FOR THE TWO COUNTRIES.) THE UNA GROUP GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT, WHILE STILL COMMITTED TO THE U.S.-SOVIET

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RELATIONSHIP, THE SOVIETS WERE TREADING WATER AND NOT PUSHING

FOR SPECIFIC PROGRESS.

3. WHILE CLAIMING AN ABSENCE OF INTERNAL DEBATE ABOUT DETENTE, ARBATOV WAS PEEVISH ABOUT ADMINISTRATION BEHAVIOR OVER CONGRESS' ACTION ON TRADE AND CREDITS. HE SAID THE SOVIETS WERE PUZZLED AND DISTURBED AT THE LACK OF SIGNS THAT THE PRESIDENT OR THE SECRETARY WERE MAKING EVEN A GESTURE WITH CONGRESS. HE SAID A POLITICAL GESTURE WOULD AT LEAST HAVE A TOKEN EFFECT IN THE SOVIET UNION. ARBATOV, HOWEVER, READILY CONCEDED THAT A FULL-SCALE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS WOULD NOT BE DESIRABLE. THE UNA GROUP PAINTED FOR THE SOVIETS A GLOOMY PICTURE OF PROSPECTS FOR CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON TRADE. BLUMENTHAL, FOR EXAMPLE, TOLD THE SOVIETS THAT THE FIRST REALISTIC PROSPECT OF A TRADE ACT AMENDMENT WOULD BE IN 1977. CONGRESSIONAL VISITORS, INCLUDING REPS. BINGHAM AND BIESTER, HERE IN THE PAST WEEK CONVEYED THE SAME MESSAGE, NOTING IN PARTICULAR THAT A CHANGE IN THE JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT WAS SIMPLY NOT A NEAR-TERM POSSIBILITY. THE SOVIETS FOR THEIR PART SHOWED NO FLEXIBILITY ON JACKSON-VANIK.

4. IN A SIDE-LIGHT ON SENATOR JACKSON, WHOM THE SOVIET PRESS (MOST RECENTLY IN KROKODIL NUMBER 9) CONTINUES TO PILLORY, BLOOMFIELD SAID HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN THAT SOVIET STUDIES OF SENATOR JACKSON HAD CONCLUDED THAT IF PRESIDENT HE WOULD BE SUBJECT TO "OBJECTIVE CONDITIONS."

5. THE PUBLIC SOVIET LINE REMAINS FAIRLY STABLE ON DETENTE. IN HIS TOAST TO THE ICELANDIC FOREIGN MINISTER (PRAVDA APRIL 4) GROMYKO REFERRED TO SUPPORT OF THE MAJORITY OF COUNTRIES FOR MAKING DETENTE IRREVERSIBLE. AN IZVESTIYA ARTICLE APRIL 2, LIBERALLY QUOTING JOHN KENNETH GALBRAITH, NOTED THE PREVALENCE OF DETENTE SUPPORT AT HARVARD. AND THE LEAD ARTICLE IN THE APRIL USA MAGAZINE--WHILE BASICALLY AN ATTACK ON THOSE IN THE U.S. WHO ARGUE FOR LIMITED DETENTE (IN PARTICULAR, FOR DETENTE WITHOUT THE ECONOMIC ELEMENT)--ALSO STRESSES THE MUTUAL BENEFITS OF DETENTE IN GENERAL.
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